

Message Text

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SUBJECT: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN JOINT WORKING PARTY ON
TECHNOLOGY AND THE STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY

REF: FORRESTER/BRESLER TELECON

1. IN RESPONSE TO MISSION'S REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE, WE
CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED REGARDING THE CHARACTER AND NARROW
SCOPE OF THE WORK THUS FAR OF THE JOINT WORKING PARTY ON
TECHNOLOGY AND THE STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY.
REVIEW OF SITUATION WILL PUT USG POSITION IN PERSPECTIVE.

2. IN 1975, THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE (CSTP) SURVEYED ITS
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THEIR POLICIES INTENDED TO
ENCOURAGE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, AND PUBLISHED A
COMPENDIUM OF THE RESPONSES. AFTER REVIEWING THIS
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DOCUMENT, THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AND CSTP AGREED THAT THIS

DESCRIPTIVE WORK OF THE CSTP SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED BY A MORE CRITICAL ANALYTIC STUDY. CONSEQUENTLY, A JOINT STUDY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS THOSE GOVERNMENT POLICIES DIRECTED AT TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, AND DETERMINE THE RELATIVE EFFICACY OF SUCH POLICIES IN ENCOURAGING THE INDUSTRIAL EXPLOITATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY. THIS STUDY WAS ALSO VIEWED AS COMPLEMENTING WORK OF

INDUSTRY COMMITTEE REGARDING FUTURE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES.

3. THE USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE STUDY OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY WILL BE USEFUL ONLY IF IT GOES BEYOND A NARRATIVE OF EXISTING POLICIES TO A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE POLICIES IN QUESTION. SUCH AN ASSESSMENT WILL BE TRULY VALUABLE ONLY IF IT INCLUDES AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS OF THOSE POLICIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE AFFECTED INDUSTRIES. WITHOUT SUCH AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION THE STUDY COULD NOT CRITICALLY EVALUATE GOVERNMENT POLICIES, AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT FULFILL THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE JOINT WORKING PARTY. AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT OF AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT, THE WORKING PARTY COULD REVIEW THE ISSUE AND HOPEFULLY DETERMINE WHICH GOVERNMENT POLICIES HAD PROVEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN ENCOURAGING INDUSTRY TO EXPLOIT NEW TECHNOLOGY.

3. THE PROGRESS THUS FAR OF THE JWP HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING. THE STUDY APPEARS TO BE TOO HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON THE MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE U.S. AND SWEDISH GOVERNMENTS. ONLY MINIMAL INPUT REGARDING THE EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA OF THE U.K., FRANCE, THE FRG OR ANY OTHER OECD COUNTRIES IS CURRENTLY ANTICIPATED. MOREOVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE INTEREST IN EXPANDING THIS SCOPE, AND OPPOSITION BY SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ANY SERIOUS INVOLVEMENT BY CONSULTANTS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT.

4. RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULTIES ENGENDERED BY CURRENT LEAVE SCHEDULES, WE REQUEST MISSION AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE TIME TO QUERY OECD SECRETARIAT AND DETERMINE UNCLASSIFIED

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